

MINUTES
February 3, 2004

The State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors met on February 3, 2004 at the State Judicial Building, 4th Floor Conference Room, at 254 Washington Ave., Atlanta, GA 30303.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

William W. Dean, PE, Chairman
Mark E. Chastain, LS
Richard K. Little, PE
Gloria B. Ransom, Ph.D., Public Member
Ted W. Waddle, PE, LS
John H. Sweitzer, PE
E. Charles Vickery, PE
Doris I. Willmer, PE

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Guy F. Ritter, PE

STAFF PRESENT:

Darren K. Mickler, Executive Director
Ajay Gohil, Attorney General Representative
Vivian Stephens, Applications Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tej Kaul, Consulting Enterprises Corp.
Ted Miltiades, Dept of Community Affairs
Mike Muntean, Peach State Building Consultants
Marilyn Moore, Geo-Enviro Engineering
Wendell Peters, SCAC
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Associates of Georgia

Chairman Dean called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The agenda for the meeting was to work applications and to meet with the Georgia Association of Residential Engineers at its request.

Mike Muntean stated that the purpose for requesting a meeting with the Board was to inform the Board of new regulations for residential projects which have removed prescriptive requirements and instituted new performance based criteria, resulting in interpretation of specifications at the job site, possibly by unqualified individuals. He requested the Board to render an opinion and provide guidance regarding engineering on residential sites. A discussion ensued.

After much discussion, Chairman Dean asked for direction.

Board Member Doris Willmer stated that she sees it as a communication issue. The Board cannot regulate the code committee or the builders. However, the Board can process complaints, if they are brought to the Board's attention. She stated that this might be an issue to share with GMA, ACCG, DCA, et al.

One of the association members explained that Chapter 17 of the building code gives additional authority to the building inspectors, and there seems to be a lack of understanding as to what the limitations are for making a decision that a professional engineer is needed.

Marilyn Moore stated that it is an education issue. Most do not realize that they have gone beyond their competency. Communication, guidelines, and education would be more productive. Another individual stated that DCA has CE at Clayton State, and another added that the Building Association has an annual meeting the first week in May, and that this issue could be a part of its agenda. These were two avenues for educating.

Marilyn Moore stated that it is an education issue, and suggested that the Board write an opinion as it applies to residential construction.

Ajay Gohil, AG Representative, advised that outside of issuing a Rule, there is little the Board can do. However, if those concerned would draft a complaint, that would provide a tool for the Board.

After further discussion, Chairman Dean brought the discussion to a close. No action was taken. The meeting was adjourned.

The Board stayed and worked applications and left as they finished.

These minutes were approved at the March 16, 2004 Board meeting.

Board Chairman

Division Director